



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,425	07/26/2001	Jordan Pollack	XXPO-5J	6994
7590 07/12/2007 IANDIORIO & TESKA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ATTORNEYS 260 BEAR HILL ROAD WALTHAM, MA 02451-1018			EXAMINER HARBECK, TIMOTHY M	
			ART UNIT 3692	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/915,425	<b>Applicant(s)</b> POLLACK, JORDAN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Timothy M. Harbeck	<b>Art Unit</b> 3692	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

DETAILED ACTION

***Election/Restrictions***

Newly submitted claims 30-37 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

**Group 1:** Claims 1-29 are drawn to a system, method, computer readable medium and processor for management and manipulation of stored files

**Group 2:** Claims 30-37 are drawn to a receiving portal for use in combination with a rights verifier, a command executor and a storage device containing stored files.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because Inventions 1-2 are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, each invention has separate utility (See MPEP § 806.05d), specifically demonstrated as follows:

Invention 1:	a receiving portal configured to receive, from a sender, an electronic mail item including a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification
--------------	---

Art Unit: 3692

Invention 2:           said receiving portal comprising at least one software program configured to listen to a particular port of a network from which email items are received within a range of email addresses.

Because these inventions are distinct for being separately usable, as shown above, examining the inventions together would require searching for a reference teaching the unique element(s) of each invention that are not found in the remaining Inventions. This would be quite burdensome, requiring multiple searches, and thus the restriction for examination purposes, as indicated, is proper.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 30-37 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al (hereinafter Larson, US 5,825,854) in view of Prust (US 6,714,968 B1).

Art Unit: 3692

**Re Claim 1:** Larson discloses a system for management and manipulation of stored files comprising:

- A receiving portal configured to receive from a sender an item including a first field which contains a user identification (Fig 21 Ref 54; Column 3 line 63-Column 4 line 4), a second field which contains a file handle (Column 5, lines 35-38) and a third field which contains a command specification (Column 4, lines 25-35)
- A storage device containing a file corresponding to said file handle (See Fig 6a Refs 150-152 and Column 7 lines 39-41)
- A rights verifier configured to determine whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle (Column 3, line 64-Column 4 line 4)
- A file handle recognizer configured to locate a file handle pattern within the electronic mail item (Column 5, lines 25-38)
- A command executor configured to execute said command specification on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have access rights to the file (See Fax example Figs 6a and 6b and Column 7 line 21-61)

Larson does not explicitly disclose wherein the item is in the form of an electronic mail item from a sender. Prust discloses a method and system for seamless access to a remote storage server utilizing multiple access interfaces executing on the remote server including remote access to virtual data storage

Art Unit: 3692

via electronic mail (Column 8, lines 9-19). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill at the time of invention to modify the system of Larson in view of Prust so that a user has further means to remotely access and interact with important data. One would be motivated to do this in order to access stored files from a portable device, such as a wireless Blackberry device, which is capable of sending emails from remote locations. This would be more efficient than using the telephone system of Larson as a user would not have to find a landline telephone, or worry about having cellular phone service for the duration of the procedure.

**Re Claim 2:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further wherein the file handle recognizer is configured for locating conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item (Column 7, lines 7-21).

**Re Claim 3:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further includes a user identification system which extracts information from the electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item to enable verification of the sender as a known user of the system (Fig 7; Column 7, lines 7-34; "user information," "storage server parses information in order to extract one or more target directories,").

**Re Claim 4:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further includes a command parser which recognizes and assembles a

Art Unit: 3692

command out of the information extracted from the electronic mail item (Column 7, lines 30-34)

**Re Claim 5:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file from the storage device. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to be able to delete a file from a storage device if it was determined that that file was no longer needed. It would have been obvious then to include this feature to the disclosure of Larson in view of Prust as a way to maintain organization of the data store. In this way a user cannot waste valuable storage space on unwanted files and the system can operate more efficiently as it will not have to sift through and keep track of unnecessary data.

**Re Claim 6:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file as an email attachment (Column 7, lines 30-34)

**Re Claim 7:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file to a third party as an email attachment. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to email a separate party with a file attachment from data storage. It would have been obvious then to allow the user to simply issue this as a command to the system as a way to eliminate the "middleman" of the process, which in this instance would be the

Art Unit: 3692

aforementioned user. In stead of the multi-step process of requesting the file from the system, receiving the file in an email from the system and then subsequently creating a new email message to the third party, it would be much more time efficient to simply forward the relevant file directly from the remote storage to the third party at the request of the user.

**Re Claim 8:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to create a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device (Column 7, lines 26-30). While not explicitly disclosing the step of forwarding to a third party, as was discussed in the rejection of claim 8, it was well known in the art at the time of invention to email a separate party with a file attachment from data storage. It would have been obvious then to allow the user to simply issue this as a command to the system as a way to eliminate the "middleman" of the process, which in this instance would be the aforementioned user. In stead of the multi-step process of requesting the file from the system, receiving the file in an email from the system and then subsequently creating a new email message to the third party, it would be much more time efficient to simply forward the relevant file directly from the remote storage to the third party at the request of the user.

**Re Claim 9:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a fax machine at a specified telephone number (Column 1 line 66-Column 2 line 1).

**Re Claim 10:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further includes at least one of an optical character recognition device (Column 2, lines 17-20), automatic speech recognition device, language translation device (Column 12, Table III), and a file format translation device (Column 7, lines 39-46) associated with the command executor.

**Re Claim 11:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but the references do not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to plain text and email it back to the sender. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to convert a file to plain text for the purposes of email dissemination. When an email with an attachment is forwarded to a third party, many times the third party might not have the software to view certain types of files. By converting the file into the plain text of an email, the user can send pertinent information to the third party without having to worry about said third parties ability to view the information.

**Re Claim 12:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number (Column 3 line 57-Column 4 line 24).

**Re Claim 13:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to automatically print the file and mail it to a third party. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to simply print a

Art Unit: 3692

document for mailing to a third party and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention. Furthermore Larson discloses that a document can be faxed to a specific number by utilizing the command features (Column 4 line 25-54). It was well known in the art that faxing a document to a third party, in essence, involves printing a document at the recipient's location. If however the intended recipient did not have a fax machine it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to achieve the same result through the old and well-known conventional mailing system.

**Re Claim 14:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at least one of the stored files. However automatic deletion timers for storage devices were old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art. For instance, email applications often have a prompt for auto deletion of pieces of mail that have not been reviewed for a predetermined amount of time. In this way the user does not have to manually go through the storage device in order to clean out unwanted files, as it is likely that any file that has not been viewed in some time is of little value. This saves space and allows for easier management of the storage device.

**Re Claim 15:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change the date of auto deletion of the file. However this step is old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been

Art Unit: 3692

obvious to anyone of ordinary skill. One would be motivated to do this so a user has control over the deletion of his files. For instance one user may want to save files for up to 6 months to avoid erroneously deleting important files. Another user may feel that a file not viewed for over 2 months is not worth saving and may set the preference likewise. If the user is not allowed to control the auto deletion function, many users would be dissatisfied with the function and may prefer to manually control the deletion of files. This would render the auto-deletion function moot to many users.

**Re Claim 16:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator (Column 26-30)

**Re Claim 17:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting of hard drives (Ref 120), optical drives (Ref 122), random access memories (Ref 115), tape drives, RAID arrays (Column 4, lines 57-59), and storage area networks.

**Re Claim 18:** Further method claim would have been obvious to implement from previously rejected system claim 1 rejected previously, and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

**Re Claim 19:** Further computer readable medium claim would have been obvious in order to implement the previously rejected method of claim 18 on the previously rejected system of claim 1 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

**Re Claim 20:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a hard drive (Fig 1, Ref 120)

**Re Claim 21:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is and optical drive (Fig 1, Ref 122)

**Re Claim 22:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a Random Access Memory (Fig 1, Ref 115)

**Re Claim 23:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a Read Only Memory (Fig 1, Ref 114)

**Re Claim 24:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the computer readable medium is a tape drive. However tape drives are old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been obvious to anyone or ordinary skill as a means to implement a software application. A Tape drive have been used for some time to perform this function and is also a simple substitute for things such as a floppy disk or CD-ROM disclosed by Prust (Fig 1, Fig 4, lines 16-23).

**Re Claim 25:** Further processor and memory claim would have been obvious in order to implement the previously rejected method claim 18 on

Art Unit: 3692

previously rejected system claim 1 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

**Re Claim 26:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra and Prust further discloses wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer (Column 3, lines 37-40)

**Re Claim 27:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller. However the step of incorporating a processor into a programmable logic controller is old and well known in the art and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention. One would be motivated to do this in order to program the logic of the computer according to one's own specification and not one set by a manufacturer.

**Re Claim 28:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer. However single board computers were old and well known in the art and it would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill to include this feature to the system. Furthermore it was well known that many personal computer, laptops and PDA's, such as the ones disclosed by Prust (Column 3, lines 37-40) operate on a single circuit board. Therefore it would have been obvious to permit users with these configurations to perform the methods to reach a broader audience.

Art Unit: 3692

**Re Claim 29:** Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra and Prust further discloses wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into an array of network servers. Prust discloses that the users utilize the Internet, which is a worldwide collection of networks that spans hundreds of countries and millions of computers (Column 2, lines 62-64).

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 05/01/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants main contention is that the prior art does not describe or suggest the mechanism recited in the claims, namely, including a file handle and command specification within fields of an electronic mail item. Referring to applicants specification and remarks, the present invention uses a relational database to associate the users multiple email addresses to specific user ids, the user ids to file handles and the file handles to specific file paths on the storage device. The file handle further 'may look like a URL, but is a private key to the file.' The examiner believes the Larson discloses a similar system via the use of a telephone access library and the use of 'tapplets.' The user may access a tapplet that provides a link to an email program. Once linked with the email tapplet the user can review the contents of the Email and provide a link to a file manager wherein the user can access a file within the computer. Furthermore commands can be executed on the aforementioned files (Column 5, lines 11-38).

Art Unit: 3692

Regarding the difference between the telephone headset and the email message, the examiner maintains that It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill at the time of invention to modify the system of Larson in view of Prust so that a user has further means to remotely access and interact with important data. One would be motivated to do this in order to access stored files from a portable device, such as a wireless Blackberry device, which is capable of sending emails from remote locations. This would be more efficient than using the telephone system of Larson as a user would not have to find a landline telephone, or worry about having cellular phone service for the duration of the procedure.

The examiner attempted to contact attorney on July 2, 2007, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

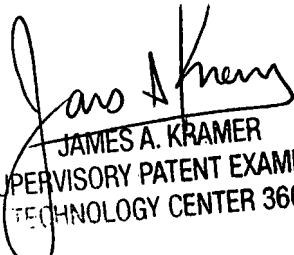
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Harbeck whose telephone number is 571-272-8123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3692

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 7/2/07  
JAMES A. KRAMER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600